



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food Safety  
and Inspection  
Service

Washington, D.C.  
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The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has completed two on-site audits of Austria's meat inspection program. The audits were conducted from November 19 - 26, 1999, and from March 6 - 7, 2000. Enclosed are copies of the two final audit reports. Austria's comments on the two draft final audit reports have been included as Attachment G. I apologize for the delay in providing these reports to you.

The audit reports describe a number of serious deficiencies that are similar to those found during the May 1998 audit of Austria's meat inspection system. At the exit conference for the 1998 audit, Austrian inspection officials assured the auditor that appropriate and effective corrective actions would be taken to rectify the observed deficiencies. FSIS is especially concerned that the same inspection system deficiencies noted in the May 1998 audit were found again in the November 1999 audit and the March 2000 audit. Therefore, we propose holding a teleconference with you and other Austrian inspection officials at the earliest date possible to review our concerns and discuss potential actions that may prevent any additional problems in the future.

We are looking forward to talking with you at the proposed teleconference. If you have questions regarding the audits or need additional information, please contact Nancy Goodwin at 202-720-6400. The fax number is 202-720-7990.

Sincerely,

151 Gary E. Stefan

Sally Stratmoen, Chief  
Equivalence  
International Policy Staff  
Office of Policy, Program Development  
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Enclosure